

## **Chapter 2**      Affected Environment, Environmental Consequences, and Avoidance, Minimization and/or Mitigation Measures

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This chapter describes the current condition of resources in the study area and identifies the potential effects of implementing the proposed project. Each subsection describes the present conditions, discusses the potential impacts of building the proposed project, and indicates what measures would be taken to avoid, minimize, or mitigate those impacts.

The environmental analysis contained within the following chapter considers the potential environmental consequences associated with implementation of the two alternatives (the No Build Alternative and the Build Alternative).

The environmental impact analyses discuss potential impacts in three general categories: human environment, physical environment, and biological environment. The following discussion of potential effects is presented by environmental resource area. As part of the scoping and environmental analysis carried out for the proposed project, the following environmental issues were considered but no adverse impacts were identified. As a result, there is no further discussion about these issues in the document.

- **Coastal Zone:** California's Coastal Zone generally extends 1,000 yards inland from the mean high tide line. The study area is located approximately 12 miles from the Pacific Ocean and is, therefore, not within the Coastal Zone. Therefore, the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, the primary federal law enacted to preserve and protect coastal resources, is not applicable.
- **Wild and Scenic Rivers:** According to the Federal Bureau of Land Management, there are no designated Wild and Scenic Rivers within or in proximity to the study area. The nearest wild and scenic rivers are Bautista Creek and North Fork San Jacinto, which are located 43.5 and 48 miles east of the project, respectively. Therefore, the proposed project is not subject to the requirements of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 United States Code [USC] 1271) or the

California Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 5093.50 et seq.).

- **Farmlands/Timberlands:** Although there are some Williamson Act lands present along Ortega Highway south of the study area, the proposed project does not impact Williamson Act lands and is not subject to the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA, 7 USC 4201-4209 and its regulations). Similarly, there are no Timber Production Zones within or in the vicinity of the study area, and the proposed project is not subject to the California Timberland Productivity Act of 1982 (California Government Code Sections 51100 et seq.).
- **Growth:** The proposed project is a safety improvement project within a generally rural area, would not result in operational changes to the roadway or any capacity enhancements, and would not affect growth.
- **Hydrology and Floodplains:** Per the Location Hydraulic Study and Floodplain Encroachment Report Summary Checklists (August 2017) prepared for the proposed project, detailed hydrology and floodplain analyses were not included because there would be no significant floodplain encroachment, no longitudinal encroachment, and no support of incompatible floodplain development. As indicated in the Location Hydraulic Study checklist, the project is neither within a 100-year floodplain nor within a regulatory floodway. An engineered drainage system is already in place for the existing facility and would be modified. Therefore, no findings pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 11988 (Floodplain Management) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requirements outlined in 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 650 Subpart A would be required.
- **Hazardous Waste/Materials:** Per the Initial Site Assessment Memorandum (August 2017) prepared for the proposed project, a visual site inspection of the study area and review of available data and documents was performed. No evidence of known hazardous waste contamination or recognized environmental concerns that could impact the project or the environment were observed.
- **Geology/Soils/Seismic/Topography:** Per the preliminary Geotechnical Analysis email dated January 2018, the proposed project would not have an effect with regards to geology/soils/seismic/topography, as excavation would be minimal and limited to cut-and-fill work where necessary.
- **Relocations:** As the only right-of-way required for project construction would be in the form of permanent and temporary easements, there would be no displacement and subsequent relocation of any residences, businesses, or other structures because of the project.